

111TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. RES. 541

Designating June 27, 2010, as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day”.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 27 (legislative day, MAY 26), 2010

Mr. CONRAD submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## RESOLUTION

Designating June 27, 2010, as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day”.

Whereas the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces, who proudly serve the United States, risk their lives to protect the freedom of the United States and deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being;

Whereas 12 percent of Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans, 11 percent of Operation Enduring Freedom veterans, 10 percent of Operation Desert Storm veterans, 30 percent of Vietnam veterans, and at least 8 percent of the general population of the United States suffers from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (referred to in this preamble as “PTSD”);

Whereas the incidence of PTSD in members of the military is rising as the United States Armed Forces conducts 2 wars, exposing hundreds of thousands of soldiers to traumatic life-threatening events;

Whereas women, who are more than twice as likely to experience PTSD than men, are increasingly engaged in direct combat on the front lines, putting these women at even greater risk of PTSD;

Whereas—

(1) from 2003 to 2007, approximately 40,000 Department of Defense patients were diagnosed with PTSD; and

(2) from 2000 to 2009—

(A) more than 5,000 individuals were hospitalized with a primary diagnosis of PTSD; and

(B) more than 500,000 individuals were treated for PTSD in outpatient visits;

Whereas PTSD significantly increases the risk of depression, suicide, and drug and alcohol related disorders and deaths;

Whereas the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs have made significant advances in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD and the symptoms of PTSD, but many challenges remain; and

Whereas the establishment of a National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day will raise public awareness about issues related to PTSD: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) designates June 27, 2010, as “National  
3       Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day”;

1           (2) urges the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and  
2           the Secretary of Defense to continue working to edu-  
3           cate servicemembers, veterans, the families of  
4           servicemembers and veterans, and the public about  
5           the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-trau-  
6           matic stress disorder; and

7           (3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of  
8           the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the  
9           Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of  
10          Defense.

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